

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0048] with the following paragraph:

[0048] Preferably, at least two fastener holes 30 are provided in plate 20 which may be located near the ends 21 of the plate. Holes 30 extend from the top surface 22 to the bottom surface 24 and are configured to receive a fastener to attach plate 20 to the bone. FIG. 3C, a cross-sectional view taken from FIG. 3A, shows one preferred embodiment of a countersunk fastener hole 30. Starting at the top surface of plate 20, hole 30 preferably has a conical countersunk shape comprising a first inclined wall 32, followed by an adjacent second inclined wall 34, and followed again by a straight-wall that penetrates the bottom surface 24 of plate 20. First inclined wall 32 of hole 30 has a different angle Θ_1 than second inclined wall 34 which has an angle Θ_2 . Preferably, Θ_1 is about 15-25 degrees, preferably about 20 degrees, and Θ_2 is about 130-150 degrees, preferably about 140 degrees. Hole 30 defines a diameter D1 at the top surface 22 of implant 20 and a diameter D2 at the bottom surface 24 of implant 20. In one preferred embodiment, D1 is larger than D2 as shown in FIG. 3C.